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COMMENT OF
THE DAY

Trade With
China

PEKING has sent a level-toned reply to the Foreign Office notes concerning the decision of British firms to withdraw from China. While no promise is given to facilitate the winding-up of British trading interests, it is to be noted that no threat of opposition to the process is held out. The Peking Government offers the assurance that each case will be dealt with on its merits, and that protection will be given to British companies "provided they abide by Chinese laws." In general the reply is moderate and satisfactory. It comes as no surprise that Peking blames the parsimonious state of British traders in China on the strategic commodities embargo which the United Nations have applied since the Chinese Communists entered the Korean war, and to which Britain has been a subscriber. This is an obvious line for Peking to follow, and with equal blandness the crippling restrictions and impositions directed by the People's Government of China against British and other foreign companies are ignored.

TO the Chinese Communists it is beside the point to argue that the economic embargo is of their own making; that its removal lies in their own hands by taking proper action to bring about a lasting peace in Korea, and by displaying willingness to help smooth out other Far East problems. There is one aspect about the Peking note, however, which is both interesting and instructive. It reveals that the Chinese Communists do not wish to break all trade relations with Britain. On the contrary, the note emphasises that the Chinese Government is willing to develop trade with Britain; moreover, by inference, it accepts the British suggestion that contact be maintained through the agency of a British Trade Mission in China. Manifestly the Peking regime has no intention or desire to shut the door against future commercial ties with Britain, and this justifies cautious hope that in due course something approaching normal trading relations can become established between the two countries.

Double Deckers

HONGKONG is being continually held out as an example to Singapore. The latest phase concerns the controversy about the major Singapore bus company, which refused to consider double-deckers in the crowded city streets on the ground that it was already very difficult indeed for the bus conductors to handle the crowds using the single-deckers. A correspondent who claims to have travelled hundreds of times on the double-deckers in Kowloon writes to the Straits Times, in reply to the head of the Singapore Traction Company who opposed two decks, showing how well the double-decker system functions here. One of the objections raised in Singapore, which has few buildings more than two storeys tall, is that double-deckers would interfere with the privacy of others. Shop-dwellers, it was argued, would regard passengers on the upper deck as "Peeping Toms." The former Kowloon resident, however, dealt with that one, too, and he added, quite rightly, that the use of double-deckers would be a big step toward the solution of Singapore's passenger traffic problem.

PERSIAN NAZIS ATTACK REDS IN TEHERAN Peace Centre Wrecked TEAR GAS USED BY POLICE

Teheran, Aug. 19.
A new force went into action in Persia today — National Socialists, wearing storm-trooper uniforms, armed with daggers and clubs.

They fought Communists of the Tudeh Party in the streets of Teheran. They also fought against the Police who opened fire on both "Persian Nazis" and Communists.

Tanks were drawn up around the Shah's summer palace. About 100 people were wounded and 64 arrested. More than 50 of those held are Communists.

After two hours the troops returned to barracks, then two Nazis—chanting Persian words to a German tune—marched to the Communist peace centre, wrecked it and burnt it down.

They burnt pictures of Stalin on the spot where Communists last month made a bonfire of a picture of the Shah.

Then they moved on to Communist newspaper offices and wrecked the presses.

Tonight the arrested Nazis were released.—London Express Service.

TRADES CALLED OUT

Teheran, Aug. 19.
Heavily-armed troops were rushed to Teheran's main shopping area tonight after police had used tear gas to disperse pro-Communist Tudeh Party groups assembling there.

Earlier, police had broken up clashes between the Tudeh Party groups and elements of the Sunkia Fascist Party in the shopping area.

Cinemas and shops closed as the tear gas drove away the Tudeh members shouting anti-Shah slogans.

Further down the main road anti-Communists set fire to the Tudeh "peace centre" and the office of the Communist newspaper Basouie Ayanach was smashed by Fascist elements.

The city was without street lights and traffic was diverted from the shopping centre to avoid the riots and tear gas.

It was officially stated earlier that the military would assist the police if necessary in dealing with further outbreaks of trouble.

The Premier, D. Mohammed Mossadegh, reported better tonight after a two-day illness, has given full authority to the Police Chief, General Shabani, to deal with all emergencies. But Dr. Mossadegh flatly denied that he had said any such thing.

The new proposal, if substantiated, was regarded in official circles in London as an effort by Iran to meet reasonable desires on the part of Britain.

Iran's position has been that the dispute was a matter for "discussion" under the Nationalisation Law but not for arbitration. — United Press.

Famous Banks To Merge

Edinburgh, Aug. 19.
Two famous Scottish banks propose to amalgamate, it was announced here today.

They are the Bank of Scotland, founded as far back as 1695, and the Union Bank of Scotland, founded in 1820.

The amalgamation has been approved by the Board of Directors of both banks and now awaits approval of the shareholders, it is stated.

The Persian Mixed Oil Commission, adviser to the Premier and Government on all oil matters, met today and is understood to have discussed "important aspects of the oil question."

The Premier asked various Ministers to prepare and submit for his approval plans to improve the administration.

The Ministry of Agriculture announced that 1,000 million Rials (over £10,000,000) will be spent in the course of the next three years in the construction of dams and irrigation facilities.

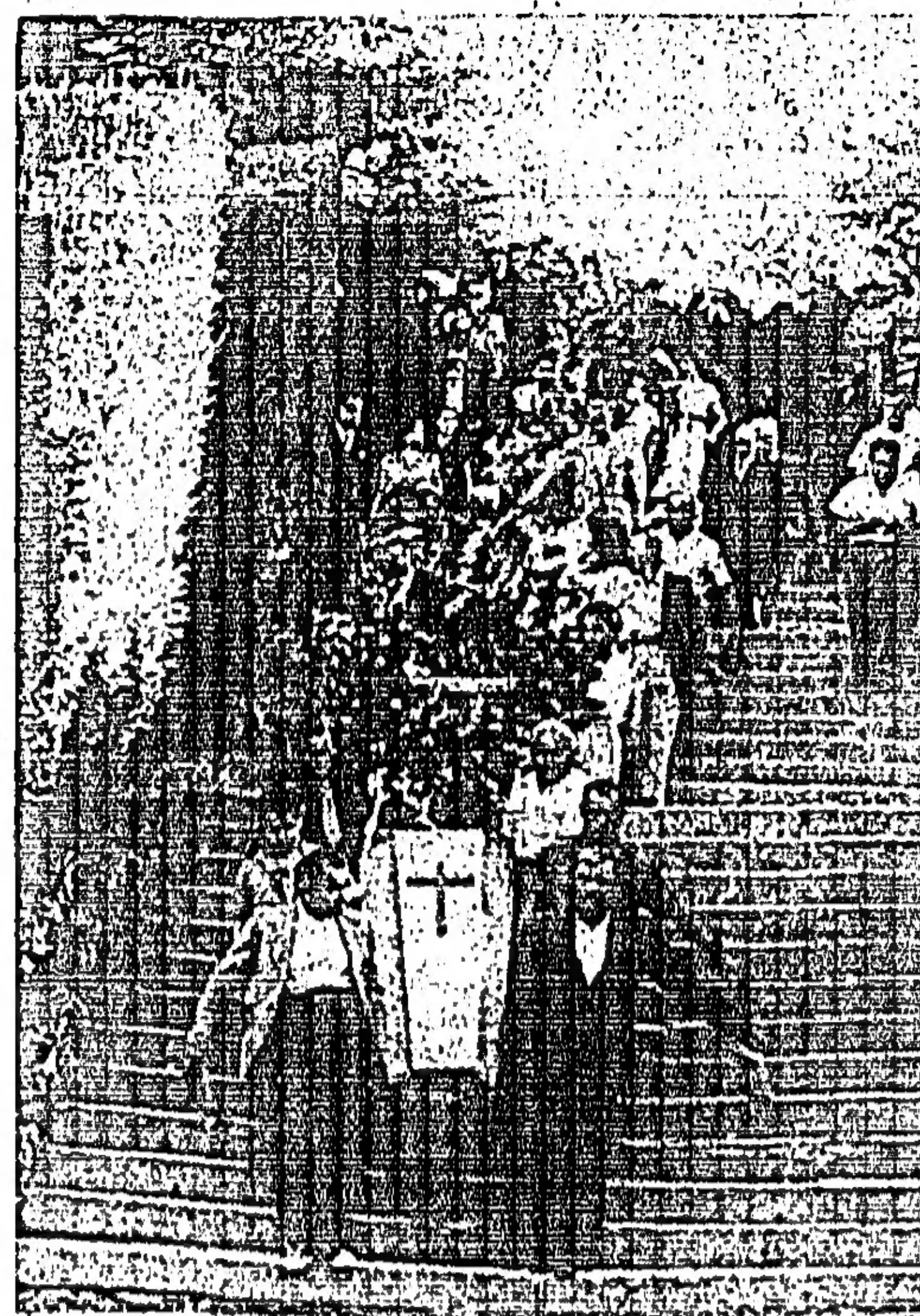
Dr. Mossadegh issued a decree empowering the Persian Finance Minister to claim all land not under cultivation and sell it to the public for "very small sums." — Reuter.

NEW PROPOSAL

Teheran, Aug. 19.
Iran proposed tonight to refer to arbitration the dispute over compensation to the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company for its sole and nationalisation by the Prime Minister. Dr. Mohammed Mossadegh.

This is a new departure in the protracted crisis which has driven Iran to the brink of bankruptcy, and which came as an American Army sergeant was stoned during rioting between

Slain Family Laid To Rest



The coffins containing the murdered bodies of Sir Jack Drummond, his wife and daughter, killed while on holiday in France, are carried to their last resting place in the cemetery at Forcalquier close to the spot where they were killed. All the people of this little town sent flowers, and most of its 3,000 inhabitants joined in the procession behind the coffins. — London Express.

Housing Minister Sees Lynmouth Devastation

Lynmouth, Aug. 19.
The Housing and Local Government Minister, Mr. Harold MacMillan, trudged ankle-deep through mud and clambered over giant boulders today to study how best the British Government can aid this seaside resort rent by a cloudburst and deluge last weekend.

The death roll in the area had risen to thirteen today when four bodies were found in the sea. Twenty-five people are still missing. Damage to roads, bridges and power and other public projects were estimated at £2,000,000.

The Devon County Surveyor reported today that in Lynmouth 42 houses, cottages and hotels were totally destroyed, seventeen partially wrecked and twenty more seriously damaged.

The relief fund opened by the Lord Lieutenants (the Queen's representatives) of the stricken Counties reached £23,500, including "generous" gifts from Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Missing dead twenty-one.

Altogether, during the day, the Ilfracombe police recovered five bodies from the sea. All were believed to have been Lynmouth victims. — Reuter.

MOST POWERFUL

These are the most powerful axial type engines now being produced in Britain and have already been installed in the Canberra light bomber and the new four-jet Vickers Valiant bomber.

The DH-110 is 52 feet (about 16 metres) long and has a wing span of 51 feet.

The P-120 is less than 30 feet (10 metres) long and has a wing span of 33½ feet (11 metres). It is powered by a Rolls Royce Avon three-jet engine.

Built for aero-dynamic research, it is fitted with a triplane adjustable for trimming at various speeds.

Two other British jet planes, which first came out in 1947, shed the final veil of secrecy today — the Vickers Armstrong Attacker FB 1 and FB 2.

They are modifications of the original Attacker, a single-seater jet fighter with swept back wings, an official maximum speed of 500 miles (800 kilometres) an hour and an operational ceiling of 48,000 feet (over 10,000 metres).

Bomb racks were added to the first model and, as the FB-1, the Attacker is now flying with the Royal Navy as a fighter bomber. — Reuter.

Ex-King's Adviser Questioned

Sequel To Riots

Cairo, Aug. 19.

Dr. Hafez Afifi, former Chief of ex-King Farouk's Royal Cabinet and his 30-year-old son, Amin Hafez Afifi, were yesterday questioned by interrogating officers about last week's riots at the Kafra el Dawar Textile Mills, near Alexandria.

Amin Hafez Afifi, Chief of the Accounts Department at the mill, was arrested during the night after being denounced by one of the 20 workers on trial for leading the riots.

Dr. Hafez Afifi flew to Cairo from Alexandria after the intervention to see the Prime Minister, Aly Maher. After a half-hour meeting, Dr. Hafez Afifi said:

"I believe in the innocence of my son, Amin. We built the Kafra el Dawar and it is illogical that we should attempt to destroy it. I have confidence in Egyptian justice."

Dr. Hafez Afifi is one of the Managing Directors of the giant Misr mill group, which includes the Kafra el Dawar mills.

The Mill Tribunal, trying alleged rioters, has already asked Dr. Afifi to explain a "secret visit" he made to the mills just before the riots broke out. Nine people were killed and 23 injured in the riots which wrecked the mills. — Reuter.

55 Africans Fined For Disobedience

USED EXCLUSIVE PART OF RAILWAY STATION

Johannesburg, Aug. 19.

Fifty-five Africans were each fined £10 sterling with the alternative of two months' gaol in two courts here today, for using part of railway stations reserved for Europeans.

Five African juveniles, who also appeared, were given five strokes with a cane from the Court Sergeant.

The Africans were arrested at Johannesburg railway station on Sunday.

Counsel for the leader of the group, 20-year-old Joseph Lepile, unemployed, contended in one court that the charge was invalid as the facilities provided at the station were different for Europeans and Africans.

A prosecution witness stated that there was no dining room, hairdressing saloon, bar, fruit stall or waiting room in the African section of the station.

These facilities existed in the European section, the witness, railway policeman A.P. Cross said. Possibly more Africans used the station than Europeans, he added.

Head Constable D. S. Du Toit said notices prohibiting Africans from certain parts of the station were prominently displayed and printed in English and Afrikaans, not any African language.

It was intended to provide adequate facilities for Africans, when station reconstruction was completed. Friction between races and prosecutions were frequent before the "Apartheid" regulations were enforced.

An application for accused's discharge at the end of the crown case was refused.

An Indian counsel contended that the charge was invalid, as there was differentiation in facilities provided for Europeans and Africans.

Lepile was found guilty and fined £10 sterling on two months' hard labour on the "Apartheid" charge, and one pound sterling or 10 days' imprisonment for not carrying a pass.

The magistrate, Mr. H. J. Johannes, said the railways had not taken away any facilities for non-Europeans — they had in fact made more available. The law had been deliberately flouted, and he regarded the matter as serious. — Reuter.

Government forces in a concentrated attack dislodged Communist rebels from their strongholds a few miles south of Okkian, 70 miles north of Rangoon. Fifty rebels were killed and about 100 wounded in a gunbattle, frontline reports said. Six were injured on the Government side.

In the Bassin sector on the west coast, 24 Karen rebels were killed in a gunbattle, another report said.

Government forces operating in the Myingyan district in Central Burma dislodged Communists from thick jungles along the Mount Popa area, where they have been reported to be concentrating in the past few weeks.

In upper Burma, the rebels attacked a railway station near Myitkyina, capital of the tribal Mohni state, and looted goods from the railway yard. — Reuter.

Two Planes Collide

Honolulu, Aug. 19.

A Navy pilot was killed and another rescued today after the collision of two Hellcat fighters over the barren island of Kahoolawe, 150 miles southeast of here.

The naval authorities did not disclose the name of the dead pilot, whose badly-burned body was found in the wreckage by the crew of a helicopter which landed near the wreckage on the island.

The rescued pilot was picked up by a boat from the destroyer Bradford. His injuries were not serious. — United Press.

Rebels Dynamite Water Supply

Rangoon, Aug. 19.

Rebels today dynamited the pipeline supplying Rangoon's drinking water and the capital went thirsty for the fifth time this year.

Rangoon Corporation officials said the pipeline was blown up five miles south of the main Gyobu reservoir, 42 miles north of Rangoon.

The extent of the damage was not known as repair squads left for the scene this afternoon.

Meanwhile, authoritative sources said the Burma Army's surprise monsoon offensives on rebel hideouts in different parts of Burma had scored spectacular victories.

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On Location
In London

These Italian film directors are "on location" in London, where they are shooting scenes in the film "Our Children," episodes from which take place in three European capitals—London, Paris and Rome. The film is an international study of juvenile delinquency.—Express Photo.

Some Revealing Statistics

Birmingham, Aug. 19. About 80 per cent of Britain's National Servicemen are educationally backward and 18 per cent completely illiterate, a senior Army staff educational officer said today.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. Jones, in charge of education in Wales and five Midland counties, said that almost a quarter of Britain's young army conscripts were below an average reading age of 12 years. This was owing to war evacuation, split homes and school overcrowding, he added.—Reuter.

New Japanese Consulates

Tokyo, Aug. 10. The Japanese Foreign Office today confirmed that Consuls-General will be exchanged soon between Japan and Burma and Finland.

In the case of Burma the present Japanese Agent would be appointed Consul-General and Burma would send a Consul-General to Tokyo.

Japan is to have a Consul-General in Helsinki, followed later by a Finnish Consul-General in Tokyo.—Reuter.

West Concerned Over The Trieste Question

ENVOYS SEE TITO

London, Aug. 19. The three Western Powers have taken fresh steps to impress on Italy and Yugoslavia their deep concern for a solution of the Trieste problem.

This was the purpose of the discussion which the three Western Ambassadors, M. Philippe Baudet of France, Mr George Allen of the United States, and Sir Ivor Mallet of Britain, had at lunch yesterday with Marshal Josip Tito at his summer resort, Brioni.

Similar views have been expressed by the envoys of the three powers in Rome.

A significant fact, it is thought here, is that the Yugoslav Ambassador to Rome, General Vladimir Velebit, was present at the Western envoys' meeting with Marshal Tito, as well as the Yugoslav Deputy Foreign Minister, M. Leo Mitev. The Western Powers are known to be concerned at the lack of progress toward an understanding on Trieste so far made by Italy and Yugoslavia.

One reason for the anxiety felt by the three Western Powers about the existing Italian-Yugoslav tension on the Trieste question is the fact that it marks recent progress made in consolidating the defence of southern Europe.

Since Greece and Turkey became members of NATO last spring, great progress has been made in co-ordinating the defences of the Balkans.

But the acute discord between Italy and Yugoslavia on the

Trieste question leaves a weak point in the Western defence system at the head of the Adriatic.—Reuter.

ITALY'S DEMAND

Naples, Aug. 19. Mr Frank Pace, United States Secretary for the Army, arrived here today to find Italy joining the chorus of European nations which demand quick American help to save the NATO rearmament plans.

In a first meeting tonight with the Italian Defence Minister, Rando Pacciardi, Mr Pace was told that Italy has adhered more closely than any other European country to the rearmament commitments undertaken in February at the last meeting (in Lisbon) of the Atlantic Council.

Official circles indicated that the United States Army Secretary was told that Italy now has the largest army of the Atlantic powers in Europe but that she will not be able to maintain it, far less increase it, unless the United States comes to her help.

Latest official figures gave the Italian Army strength as follows: four infantry divisions on a war footing, two others nearly complete and four more being built up (giving a total of 10).

One armoured division, practically complete and another to be ready shortly and two Alpine brigades on a war footing and another almost complete. Full details of American arms and equipment as far supplied have not been announced.

WIDER SCALE

The only precise figures so far announced showed that the United States has given Italy 800 tanks, 320 aircraft, two destroyers, three escort gunboats and 31 landing craft.

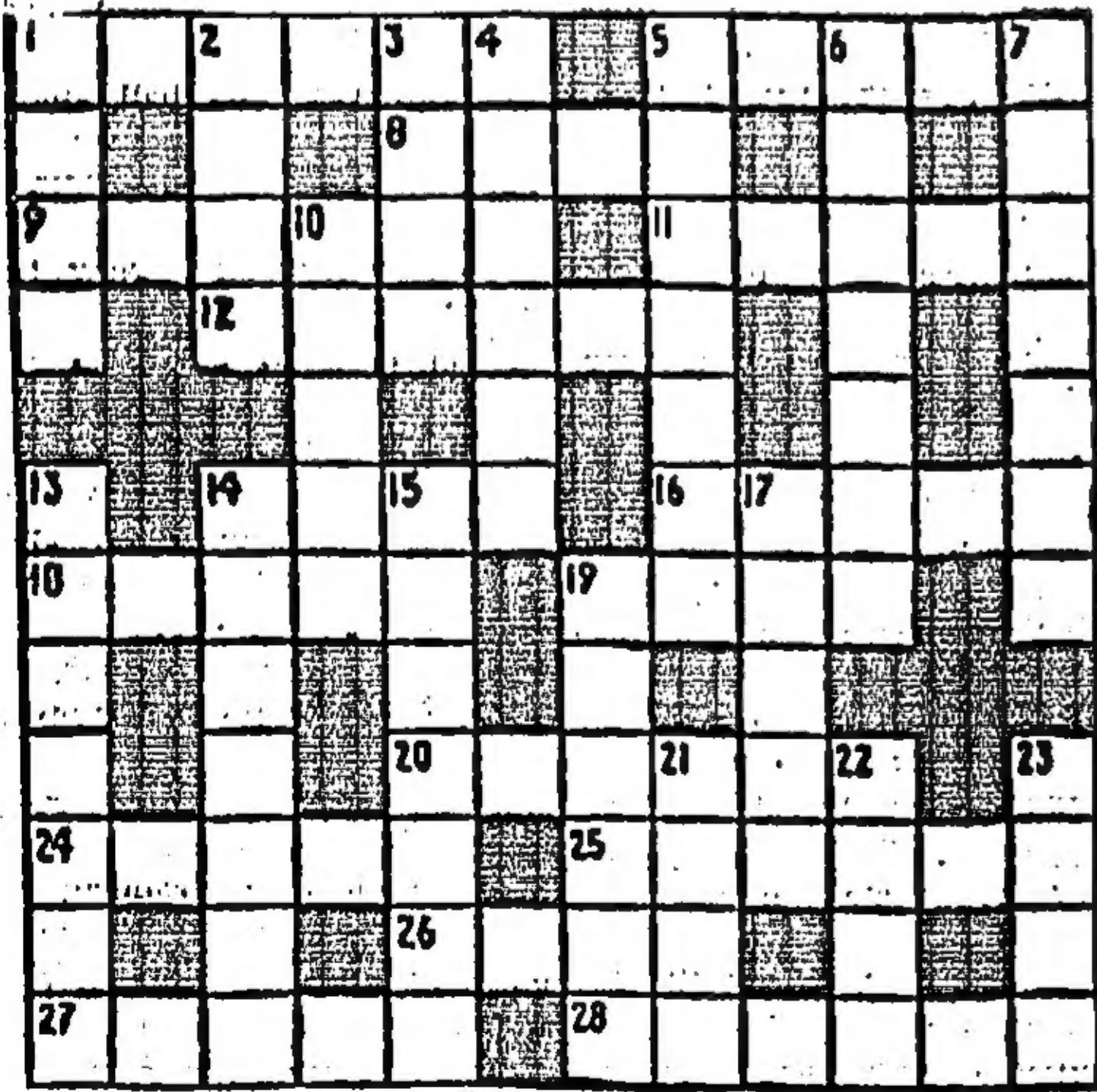
Apart from detailing the urgent needs of the Italian Army, the Ministers are expected to outline to Mr Pace Italy's requests for aid on a wider scale.

The Congress annual report said that two British union representatives, Mr Alfred Roberts and Mr A. McAndrews, who visited India and Pakistan last year, were able to give helpful advice on the importance of trade unions retaining independence of political parties, however much they might sympathise with the basic aims of any party.

Trade union organisation in Pakistan suffered from a great shortage of trained leaders and the fact that the centres of industry were so widely separated, the report added.

Asked today if they had examined the theory that the murderer was surprised while trying to assault Elizabeth Drummond in the car, the police said they had examined the girl's body but had found no traces of assault.—Reuter.

A British Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- Tree (6)
- Lower oneself (5)
- Tidy (4)
- Inrequently (6)
- Part of a helicopter (6)
- Spanish lady (6)
- Ceremony (4)
- Struggles for breath (6)
- Spy (6)
- Murk of a blow (4)
- Word of honour (6)
- Grotesque blend (5)
- Come out (6)
- Berries (4)
- Reposes (5)
- Quirk, quirk (6)
- Yesterdays (6)
- Across: 1. Aeon, 4. Prince, 6. Tatar, 10. Acted, 12. Terror, 14. Reprise, 17. Rico, 19. Eviles, 20. Colloid, 22. Used, 23. Untied, 27. Allego, 29. Spizo, 30. Encore, 31. Siding, 32. Starts. Down: 1. Aller, 2. Scrub, 3. Plato, 5. Moor, 6. Nit, 7. Eddies, 9. Revenue, 11. Corner, 13. Hibenco, 16. Eros, 18. Rattle, 19. Cade, 20. Curset, 21. Nephrt, 24. Totor, 25. Luring, 26. Drift, 28. Lash.

Yugoslav Navy "Adequate"

Belgrade, Aug. 19. Yugoslavia has an adequate naval force on its 1,250 miles of Adriatic coastline for maritime defence, Rear-Admiral Vukasin Micunovic, of the Yugoslav Navy, said in a speech reported by Tito, official Yugoslav Communist newspaper.

The present Yugoslav navy is bigger in size and armour than before the war, he added. In addition to the Cominform countries, "Tito's" Irredentists are threatening the independence of Yugoslavia, he asserted.

(Irredentism is the movement

begun over 20 years ago to include Italy, all Italian-speaking districts).—Reuter.

Conducting In The Rain



The enthusiasm of these musicians of the Royal Canadian 22nd Regiment is not dampened by a heavy Northumbrian downpour. The musicians are protected by a tarpaulin shelter, but the conductor has to stand out in the rain, covered by a groundsheet.—Express Photo.

Increased Financial Aid To Malta By Britain Urged

London, Aug. 19. Britain's Trade Union Congress urged today that the Government should give increased financial aid to Malta and should consider the possibilities of international assistance for the island.

The Congress General Council said in its annual report that it endorsed the view of its chairman, Mr Arthur Deakin, that the Government "should as a matter of conscious policy assume on both short and long term basis, a broad responsibility for aiding the people of Malta in their social and economic development."

The report and recommendations made by Mr Deakin, who visited Malta last January as representative of the T.U.C. and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, have been sent to the Prime Minister, Mr Churchill.

The T.U.C. said the matter was being pursued.

The report declared: "To the extent that direct aid from United Kingdom sources is inadequate, the British Government should examine the possibilities of international aid, including the Point Four Programme and any long-range plans for capital developments, which may be worked out under the aegis of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations."

"This responsibility should take the form of assistance, whether direct from British sources or through such international agencies as may be appropriate on specific projects, such as emigration, technical training, improvements in education facilities, aid to light industry, development of Maltese social services, improvements in the port, increasing electrical generating capacity, water conservation and the like."

To demonstrate to Mr Pace what has been achieved, Italian Army and air units will stage a big exercise on the north-east frontier on Thursday and Friday.—Reuter.

The General Council said that it felt that such assistance should be greater than that proposed by Sir George Schuster in his special report on

Israel's Peace Offer To Arabs Renewed

Jerusalem, Aug. 19.

For the second time in 24 hours, the Israeli Government today openly offered to make peace with the Arab states.

The Foreign Minister, Moshe Sharett, told Parliament: "We are ready at any time to conclude peace with each of the Arab States or with all together." Yesterday, the Premier, David Ben Gurion, told the Knesset (Parliament) that Israel has no territorial, political or other disputes with Egypt, welcomed the abdication of ex-King Farouk, and wished success to the new regime.

The Foreign Minister made his offer during the resumed debate on a bill to extend compulsory military service from 18 to two-and-a-half years.

He said the proposed extension was not the result of any events in neighbouring countries, but aimed merely at maintaining Israel's army strength.

Although Israel was ready to peace with the Arab States, "we are ready to fight back if provoked," Mr Sharett said.

ONLY STABLE REGIME

The Israeli regime was the only stable and internally peaceful one in the whole region, he added.

Mr Sharett did not touch on the possibility of peace with Egypt in particular.

"We are vitally interested in peace, but we do not consider peace a prerequisite for our development," he said.

"We are ready to maintain our isolated position among our neighbours for an indefinite period. We are certain to break through our isolation and we shall finally emerge stronger with the tight, useful links we are establishing with countries far and near."

The bill, extending army service from two years to 30 months, passed its first reading in the Knesset tonight by 70 votes to 11. The Communists and the pro-Cominform United Labour Party voted against it.—Reuter.

COOL RECEPTION

Cairo, Aug. 19. The Arab League Secretary-General, Abd el Rahman Azzam, tonight described as "impudent" the peace offer to Egypt made yesterday by the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr David Ben Gurion. Israel's first respect the United Nations Charter, the Security Council resolution, he said. She should also repatriate a million Arab refugees and compensate them for their lost property.

"But the Arab States do not even find themselves prepared to listen when Ben Gurion speaks in that tone at a moment when he has strengthened his army and threatened Colonel Shishakli (Syrian Army chief)," he added.

Azzam Pasha today conferred with the Egyptian Premier, Aly Maher, about convening conferences of the Arab League Council Political Committee and Military Committee to discuss the implications of the collective security pact, which now comes into effect with its ratification by Iraq.

The meetings are expected to be held in September.—Reuter.

Attlee's Visit To Rhodesia

Lisbon, Aug. 19. Mr Clement Attlee, leader of the British Labour Party, told a Press conference here today that he would make it clear to people he met in Northern and Southern Rhodesia that the Labour Party supports in principle the Central African Federation.

Mr Attlee, who is here to study the federation plan, which aims at joining the Rhodesias and Nyasaland, said: "I am here to inform myself."

The report urged the development of tourism and suggested that the British Board of Trade might increase the promotion of Maltese goods in this country.

It was desirable to have some form of continuing the joint consultative machinery.

The service departments should establish effective recognition of the Maltese unions with the object of reaching an agreement on a wages policy.

These departments should not make reductions in employment as the compensation for increased costs should open the way to promotion to higher posts for Maltese employees, should remove inhibitions in conditions of service and should attempt to unify their policies on wages and conditions of service in Malta.—Reuter.

HIGHEST PRIORITY

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Magna Carta Copy For Australia

Canberra, Aug. 19.

The Parliamentary Speaker, Mr A. G. Cameron, announced today that one of the 14 copies of Magna Carta known to exist has been purchased by the Australian National Library.

An Indonesian Army spokesman said that the Headquarters last month had not received reports of any flare-up of fighting in Ceram. The only reports received concerned the surrenders of "former followers of the self-styled Republic of South Moluccas" to Army posts.

The spokesman added that there indeed were still tribes of

Alurs armed with bows and arrows but they were not rebellious.

"The island is rather quiet," he said, "and the Army personnel did not shoot to injure more than the normal number of tribesmen."

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rebellious.

The defence section of Parlia-

ment reported 10 weeks ago that

there was no organised resistance

on Ceram any more. According

to them there were still two tribal

groups, one headed by the self-

styled Republic's Prime Minister,

Dr Soson.

The last army communiqué on

this matter, issued a week ago,

announced the surrender of

Ambonese Major Salsabir and

of his followers to an Army

post in West Ceram.—Reuter.

Bow And Arrow Rebels Figment Of Imagination

Djakarta, Aug. 19.

Headquarters of the Indonesian Army today described as "complete fakes," Press reports according to which 13,000 Moluccan rebels armed with bows and arrows were fighting the Indonesian Army in Ceram in the South Moluccas.

The reports were carried last week by a Melbourne newspaper, which attributed them to recent despatches smuggled from Ceram through an "Indonesian blockade".

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SEATS for 98,000 people—they would stretch 27 miles if placed end to end—are to be put up by the Government for next year's Coronation.

Mr. David Eccles, the 47-year-old Minister of Works, said the price of the seats on the seven-mile route has not yet been worked out.

They look like costing £3 10s. for an uncovered seat, and £5 10s. for one under cover.

The full cost will be charged, said Mr. Eccles. Taxpayers should not be asked to subsidise those fortunate enough to get a seat.

None of the seats will be allocated to individuals. All will go to organisations, and steps will be taken to prevent resale of the tickets.

The question of televising the ceremony in the Abbey was under consideration.

Mr. Eccles said the traditions inherited from the past would be most scrupulously observed in the most moving and glorious pageant of the world.

It would be a pageant of Empire—the greatest ever seen in this country.

The Empire Visitors

"Our aim here," said Mr. Eccles, "is to give the Queen and her people the impression of a pageant passing through all the countries of the great Commonwealth."

Special stands are to be put up all round St. Margaret's, Westminster, which will hold about 15,000 people. At least half of these seats will be for visitors coming from Commonwealth countries and the colonies.

Mr. Eccles said: "We want everyone, even from the furthest corners of the earth who looks towards the Queen, to find his flag or emblem prominently displayed."

He had therefore given instructions for a single design in Parliament Square and Broad Sanctuary which would include and represent all the realms and territories of which the Queen is head.

The Ministry of Works was voted £350,000 for the 1937 coronation, said Mr. Eccles. Since then costs had trebled. He hoped to provide a better show next year and would be glad if he could do it at double the cost of the King George VI coronation—£700,000.

"Of course, the Ministry of Works cannot provide nearly enough seating room to provide for the great invasion of visitors already clamouring—for beyond anything we have known before," he said.

Setting The Stage

"The Ministry of Works," he said, "are the builders, decorators, electricians, and stage hands for this pageant."

They had to set the stage and build a theatre inside Westminster Abbey. They had to provide viewpoints. They had to arrange flowers, floodlighting, fireworks and other expressions of public rejoicing.

In due course he would receive a warrant from the Earl Marshal, the Duke of Norfolk, authorising him to take over control of Westminster Abbey from the Dean and Chapter.

The work of preparation in 1937 went on for five months. There was no need to be surprised at the length of time.

In 1937 there were seats for 7,600 guests in the Abbey. They were so squeezed that nobody was allowed to take a wrap or a cloak in to the ceremony.

He did not think they would fit a single extra seat this time.

Work was already going on

on the fabrics and carpets with which the Abbey would be decorated.

On the altar would be the finest embroidery. The Throne chair, throne stool and other Coronation furniture would be made for the occasion.

"It is our duty to express in colour and design the age we live in and the homage we put to the Queen we are to crown," said Mr. Eccles.

Of the Coronation route, he said: "I am sure it is a better route than this time."

There were many Crown buildings and long processions in the royal parks on it.

The stands that were to be built would be set back to allow thousands of people to stand in front of them.

The effective limit of standing was 10 deep. The general public would have that much room in front of the stands.

Gayer And Lighter

Of the decorations he said: "It is too early yet to give details, but since 1937 the textile industry have produced many new fabrics, which will be used. Our taste in design has become gayer and lighter."

"I hope to put on a better show than there was for the last Coronation—London Express Service."

THE BEGUM OF JUNAGADH
She speaks of blackmail.A PRINCESS ON TRIAL
FOR MURDER

and the cause of death tuberculosis. That might have been the end of the story—but for an accident.

A policeman was making a routine check of the register kept by a Moslem association which arranges burials. One name was missing from the register. Inquiries were made. It was found that the unnamed body had been taken to the graveyard from the Begum's house. It was exhumed.

The hearing of the charge against the Begum opened on February 17 in the Karachi gaol. She chewed betel leaves and sat through the proceedings dressed as for a reception with a green silk luck-talisman tied round her right arm.

Photographs of the dead girl's face taken after exhumation

★ From Pakistan, the China Mail's Special Correspondent reports the strange case of The Lady of the Illuminated World, accused of killing her servant.

The story started on Monday, January 28. On that day the Begum (after a very profitable Sunday at the races) was celebrating the birth of her first grandson. Gorgeously bewelled she was receiving the guests in her Karachi mansion when two policemen entered with the warrant.

Then according to the police the Begum went into a violent rage. She shouted: "Five hundred servants cleaned my palace in Junagadh, I did what I liked with them. Today I am being arrested for the murder of a 13-year-old chattel. What impudence!"

She ordered her servants to pack a suitcase for her. Then she went out to her car escorted by police. Two maids went with her to gaol.

It is alleged that for three days before Bano died she was kept handcuffed, tied with thick ropes and deprived of food and drink. On the fourth day she was brought to Karachi four years ago without their knowledge from Junagadh.

Her mother decided to flee to Karachi with her two sons. In Karachi they got work in an ice factory; they built a hut out of sacking rags and discarded newspapers; and they tried to get in touch with Bano. They were unable to do so. They went to the police.

According to five main prosecution witnesses—including a police officer, a doctor and two other maidservants—Bano was beaten to death by the Begum herself and her maids.

The Begum is said to have become enraged because the girl used her toilet articles; and to have ordered red pepper to be put on the girl's body.

Other policemen searched the mansion. They were joined by two coolies, who said that Bano, the murdered girl, was their only sister. They alleged that she was brought to Karachi four years ago without their knowledge from Junagadh.

Her body was buried quietly. Her age was given as forty.

While the trial goes on the Begum lives in a cell where a specially installed generator provides her with electric light. Four of her maidservants are in attendance on her.

Nazis Thought Colditz Was Escape-proof

By PETER LOVEGROVE

COLDITZ, a grim mediaeval castle built on a cliff over the River Mulde between Leipzig, Dresden and Chemnitz, was used by the Germans as a punishment prison for officer prisoners of war in the two World Wars. The Nazis thought it was escape-proof.

Surrounded on three sides by precipices which fall into deep water, it has outside walls seven feet thick, the courtyard is 250 feet above river level, and the prisoners' quarters were another 60 feet higher still. Guards outnumbered prisoners at all times; the castle was robust at night from every angle despite the blackout; and the whole camp was surrounded by sentries who were in turn surrounded by a palisade of barbed wire.

In addition, tiny microphones were hidden in recreation rooms, bunk-houses and cells. Stool pigeons were placed among the prisoners, while guards offered to help escapees plan for bribes so that they could relay the information to the Commandant. And the fortress was 400 miles from the nearest frontier post not controlled by the Nazis.

It should have been a case of "abandoning hope all ye who enter here." But those who entered Colditz were Allied officers—British, Canadian, Australian, New Zealand, Indian, French, Belgian, Dutch and Polish—who had already attempted to break out of ordinary camp. They were the cream of the "professional" men of the highest possible morale, courage and resourcefulness who were prepared at any time to risk their lives for freedom, and all that the Germans succeeded in doing was to concentrate the keenest brains, the most advanced escaping techniques in one place.

The French were particularly resourceful and daring. One Lieutenant Bouley, disguised himself as an ailing horse-faced tramp, but unfortunately dropped a wrist-watch as he was mincing his way through the park outside the camp. A German guard picked up the watch and called to a sentry to stop the "girl". The sentry tried to strike up a conversation, but Bouley's knowledge of German was not good enough to risk answering. The sentry became suspicious and when Bouley's blonde hair came away the game was up.

Another Frenchman, Lieut. Lebrun, a tall cavalry officer, got clean away to France at the second attempt. First he hid in the rafters of a pavilion in a barbed-wire compound in the nearby park which served as a playing field. Although

all prisoners were counted as they went in and came out of the compound, he was not missed as a tiny Belgian had been "smuggled in" by riding pick-a-back under the cloak of a fellow-prisoner and came out in his own right.

When night fell, Lebrun changed into civilian clothes and made for the nearest railway station. There unfortunately, he bought a ticket with a 100-mark note which had just been withdrawn from circulation, and the station master called up the camp. For this he was sent to solitary confinement in the castle.

But, writes Reid, "the soldier" — at the time a mere half a dozen — were having their daily exercise in the park, during which period they could mix freely. Being only a few, they were sparsely guarded, though confined to one end of the compound where the prisoners played football among the trees.

Lebrun was in the habit of doing exercises with two other Frenchmen, which included much leapfrogging. Now Lebrun was athletic. It was high summer and he was dressed in what remained to him of his former army — shorts, a yellow cardigan, an open-necked shirt and gym shoes — not good escaping clothes but that was also what he reckoned the Germans would think.

All In A Flash

"WHILE couple of the latter were lying rather sleepily outside the wire and looking at anything but the prisoners, Lebrun innocently leapfrogged with the other Frenchmen. It all happened in a flash. His French colleagues stood near the wire and, forming with his two hands a stirrup into which Lebrun placed his foot, he catapulted him upwards. Acrobats can leap such enormous distances by this method. Precision of timing of muscular effort is the secret. Lebrun and his friend managed it, and the former sailed in a headlong dive over the 9-foot wire.

"This was only half the battle. Lebrun ran 20 yards along the fence to the main wall of the park. He had to climb the wire, using it as a ladder, in order to haul himself on to the top of the wall which was, at this point, about 12 feet high. Lebrun deliberately attracted the fire of the two nearest sentries by running backwards and forwards beside the wall. Their cartridge boxes fired (and having missed), the (Cont'd. on page 4, col. 1)

The stars and you

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23-Jan. 20): Considering your silly luck, a fairly normal week.

Money troubles, health troubles, and the usual family troubles.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19): Of the seven black days ahead, it is hard to say which will be the blackest. As the following week will be worse, try to look on the bright side.

PICTURES (Feb. 20-Mar. 21): Your usual high spirits damped about Friday. And again on Saturday. By Sunday you will need all your alleged sense of humor.

ARIES (Mar. 22-April 20): Whatever you are thinking of doing, for Pete's sake don't do it. Every move brings disaster.

Seven days in bed might help, but don't smoke. You will set the house on fire.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): You will be as unpopular this week that only the threat of capital punishment will prevent somebody murdering you. Don't tempt people too far.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Bad week for buying, selling, backing horses, travelling, stopping at home, standing up, sitting down, breathing, eating, and elbow lifting. Get a hypnotist to put you into a trance until next Sunday.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): As it is, Dr. Gubbins is able to earn a living being one of the biggest fools the country has ever seen instead of being a burden on the taxpayer.

"I hope to put on a better show than there was for the last Coronation—London Express Service."

The stars and you

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23-Jan. 20): Considering your silly luck,

good health, he has always been hopelessly inefficient himself.

He was slung out of school

when he was 16 because he

couldn't learn anything, and

slung into an office where he

was regarded as the biggest

fool Fleet Street had ever seen.

But nobody sent him to a

psychiatrist. They shouted

curses at him.

When the Kaiser's war broke

out, he joined the Army, and

was regarded as the biggest fool

the Army had ever seen.

Another

Frenchman, Lieut.

Lebrun, a tall cavalry officer,

got clean away to France at

the second attempt. First he

hid in the rafters of a pavilion

in a barbed-wire compound in

the nearby park which served

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(Cont'd. on page 4, col. 1)

• JACOBY ON BRIDGE

Sound Reasoning Will Win Games

By OSWALD JACOBY

WHEN the Decoration Day Tournament opened recently in New York, Eli Jaye and Lester Gluckman, both of Brooklyn, were on hand to defend the tennis championship that they won in this tournament last year.

Today's hand, taken from a recent total point team match, shows Mr Jaye at his best. West opened with the deuce of clubs and East won with the Jack. East returned the deuce of hearts, and West won with the nine. West then took the club lead and continued with the queen of clubs and continued with the ace of clubs.

Up to this point, the play was identical, but now both declarers ruffed the ace of clubs and then needed the rest of the tricks to make the contract.

In the fourth round, the South player led the queen of spades for a finesse. This picked up West's blank king, but East later won a trump trick and the club lead, so the contract was therefore set one trick.

In the second round, when Mr Jaye played the South hand, the contract was made by a combin-

• BY • THE • WAY •
by Beachcomber

"MANY people," remarks a lad of infinite tactfully, "have knowledge of classical music to these modern dance-bands."

How true, I would go further, and say that to hear Zydeco Zorozoro's hot little solo on the radio, or the rendition of Shawm's "Nocturne," with all the saxophones muted, and Zydeco in a Polish lancer's hat, is a new musical experience.

For an idle hour

HERE is a good game to play on sunny days. Take 12 matches. Strike them one after the other, and lay them in three rows of four each. Turn every second match in each row sideways and every third match in each row upside down, so that the head faces away from the original position. Then lift the first match in the second row and substitute it for the last match in the fourth row, changing over alternate matches in each of the other rows, and removing those that are lying sideways. Cut the remain-

YOUR BIRTHDAY... By STELLA

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20

BORN today, you have an excess of physical vitality, are forceful and energetic. Spend money on yourself, in the hope that you will find happiness.

Public life is likely to appeal to you. You would probably do well in politics. Since you have a good head for business, it is likely that you will become an independent merchant before you have reached middle age. Fond of good music and art, you will probably organise or sponsor some community project which would bring other artists and people together.

You are a born organiser. You can take one look at a muddled situation, see what needs to be done, and then get it done. The chances are that you will be most successful in work which calls for initiative and ingenuity. You have an inventive mind, as well, and will probably find a different way to do anything which you undertake.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

LEO (July 24-Aug. 23) — Minor discouragements will be only temporary, so don't get pessimistic. Look ahead into the future.

TAURUS (Apr. 21-May 21) — Sympathy and understanding can prove an important to a friend at actual financial assistance in time of need.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) — Cherish your independence, and make sure that you are not being imposed upon, even by those whom you love.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) — Diligence and strict adherence to your duty, even though it be difficult, is necessary right now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 22) — All study and research is well favoured. Find out exactly what you need to know at this time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Better to concede on minor points so that you can gain your way on important ones.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23-Jan. 20) — Be hospitable to all those who may be newcomers in your community.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) — A good time to get your autumn wardrobe in shape. Do important shopping, and begin to plan for the future now, and then, later, stick to them.

LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) — Buy the things you need right now. Improve your surroundings to the utmost. It will pep you up.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 22) — All study and research is well favoured. Find out exactly what you need to know at this time.

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 19) — Don't be a stick-in-the-mud. Get out more. Accept a few social invitations and broaden your outlook.

MR. JAYE'S close reasoning was rewarded when he led the four spades and the declarer returned a diamond from dummy and successfully drew a trump. He then drew two more rounds of trumps and captured the king of diamonds with his ace. The rest, of course, was easy.

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